

RICK WARREN'S BIBLE STUDY METHODS

Twelve Ways You Can
Unlock God's Word

From the author of
THE PURPOSE DRIVEN® LIFE

METHOD #1

THE *DEVOTIONAL*
METHOD OF
BIBLE STUDY

HOW TO APPLY
SCRIPTURE TO
LIFE

Definitions

Apply

the action of putting something into action, to do something with information

Application

to make practical use of something, of information

The real goal of studying the Bible is
**APPLICATION—doing or living the
Bible**—this is how our lives are changed
through the Word of God.

This method will teach us how to apply what the Bible teaches to our lives. In fact application is used in **EVERY** method we will learn in the course.



This method is one you can use simply in your devotional time with the Lord.



“The Devotional Method of Bible Study involves taking a passage of the Bible, large or small, and prayerfully meditating on it until the Holy Spirit shows you a way to apply its truth to your own life...”

...in a way that is personal, practical, possible, and provable. The goal is for you to take seriously the Word of God and "do what it says" (James 1:22)."

Rick Warren

APPLICATION IS IMPORTANT

The Bible shows us how to have a **relationship with God**, to live in His way, and **how to become more like the Lord Jesus Christ.**

APPLICATION IS IMPORTANT



2 Tim 3:16 tells us this happens as the Bible teaches, rebukes, corrects and trains us in righteousness.

This is about life change, change that takes place when we live out (apply) the truths of the Bible. **It is hard work**, but very important!

DO YOU KNOW
THE BIBLE BUT
FAIL TO LIVE IT?

Jesus often met people who had just this problem. Matt 22:29 he speaks to the Pharisees,

Jesus answered them, "You are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God.

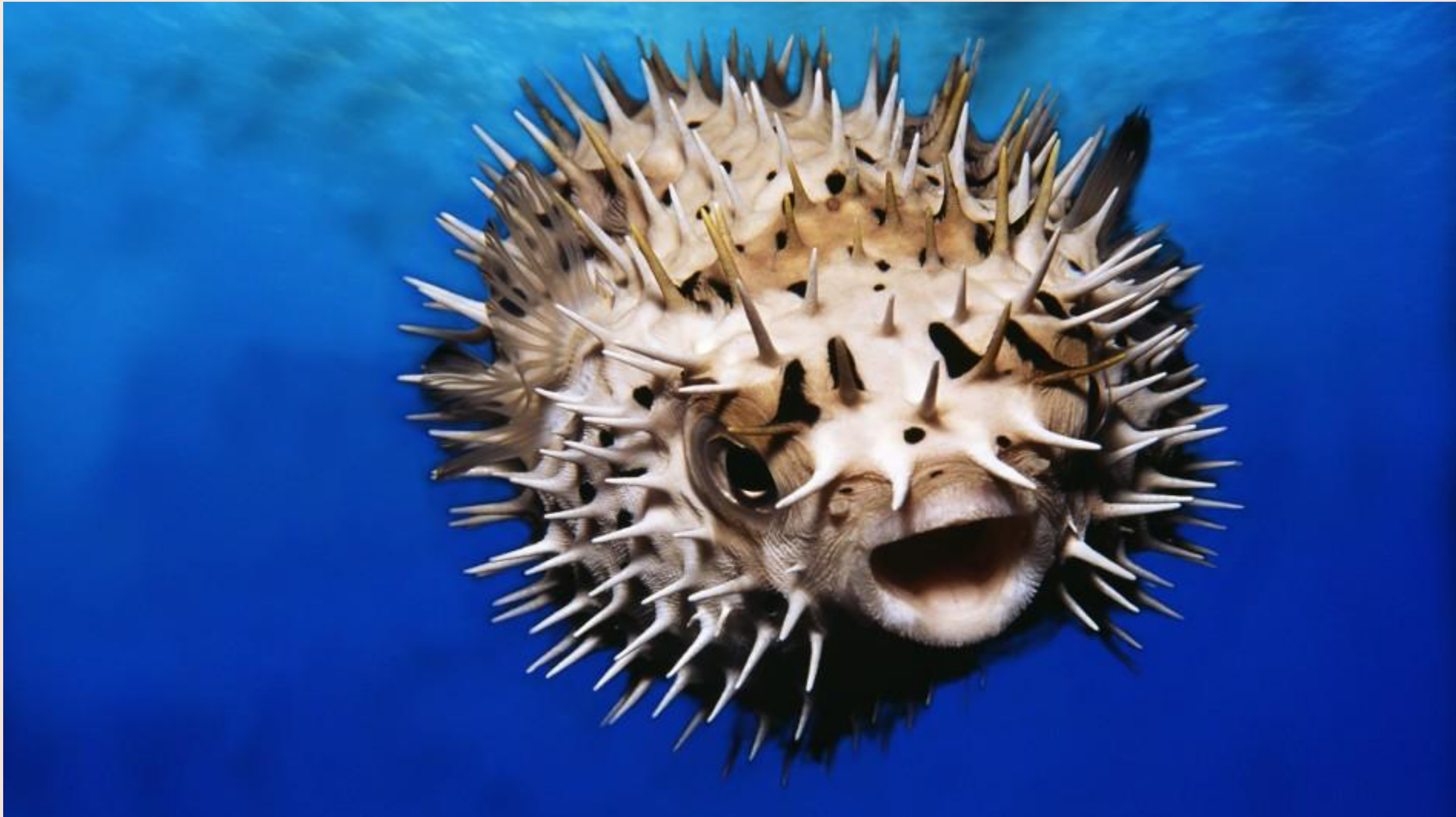
**The Pharisees knew the Bible but
failed to live the Bible.**

**You cannot claim to know the Bible if
you don't live it out.**

1 Cor 8:1,

Now concerning[a] food offered to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” This “knowledge” puffs up, but love builds up.





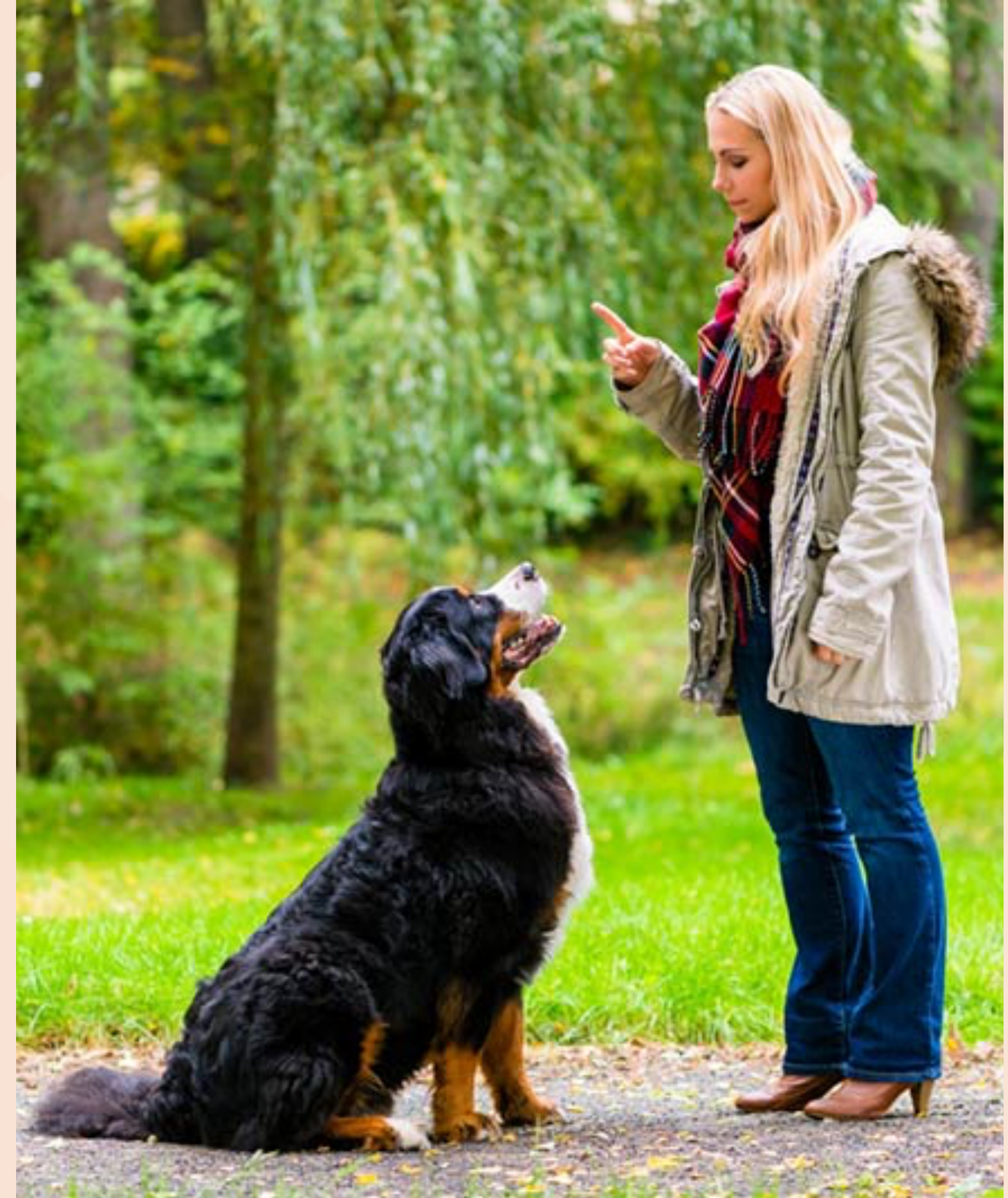
That means it makes us proud—we see this in the devil who knew the Bible intellectually (see Matt 4:1-11) but was full of pride.

Knowledge of the Bible

requires action: Jas 1:22

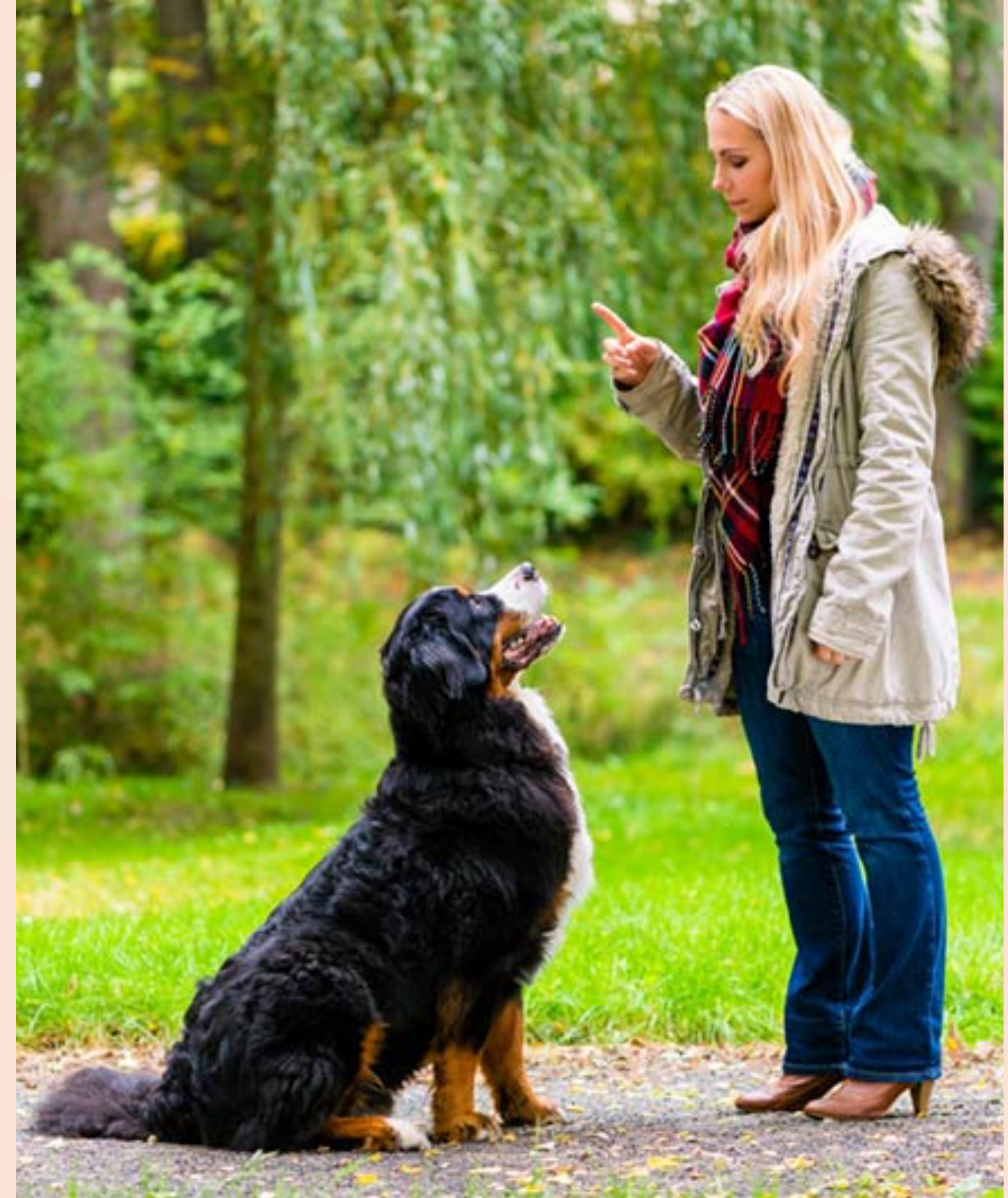
(NIV),

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.



This is not a choice, it is a
command!

See also Matt 7:24-27, King
David in Psalm 119:59-60.



When we know the Bible by studying
we become responsible for living it out,
James 4:17,

***So whoever knows the right thing to
do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.***

IF YOU AREN'T GOING
TO CHANGE YOUR
LIFE, DON'T BOTHER
STUDYING THE BIBLE!

**APPLICATION IS
HARD WORK!**

Why? Because...

applying Bible truth to our lives requires

planning,

and,

the devil hates to see Christians grow

in their faith.

1. It requires serious thinking

- it might need a long time of meditation to see the way a verse can be applied to our life

- it might need us to see beyond a local custom or temporary rule so that we can live a principle today

Both of these take time and thought.

2. Satan fights application

Satan doesn't mind if you know the Word, he wants to stop you living out the Word. He hates you to be a doer of the Word and will try to stop you.

3. We naturally resist change

We are often comfortable and easy with who we are and so we don't want to change.

Do you live on the basis of what you feel like doing?

Feelings are not what lead or change our lives.

Make a choice to study, to read, to meditate and out of that choice (not feeling) your life is changed.

HOW TO STUDY
USING THE
DEVOTIONAL
METHOD

PRACTICAL STEPS TO APPLICATION

Four simple steps in a devotional study:

- Pray
- Meditate
- Apply
- Memorise

Devotional Study Form

Date: _____

Passage: _____

Meditation

Application

Memorisation

Devotional Study Form

Date: _____

Passage:

Meditation

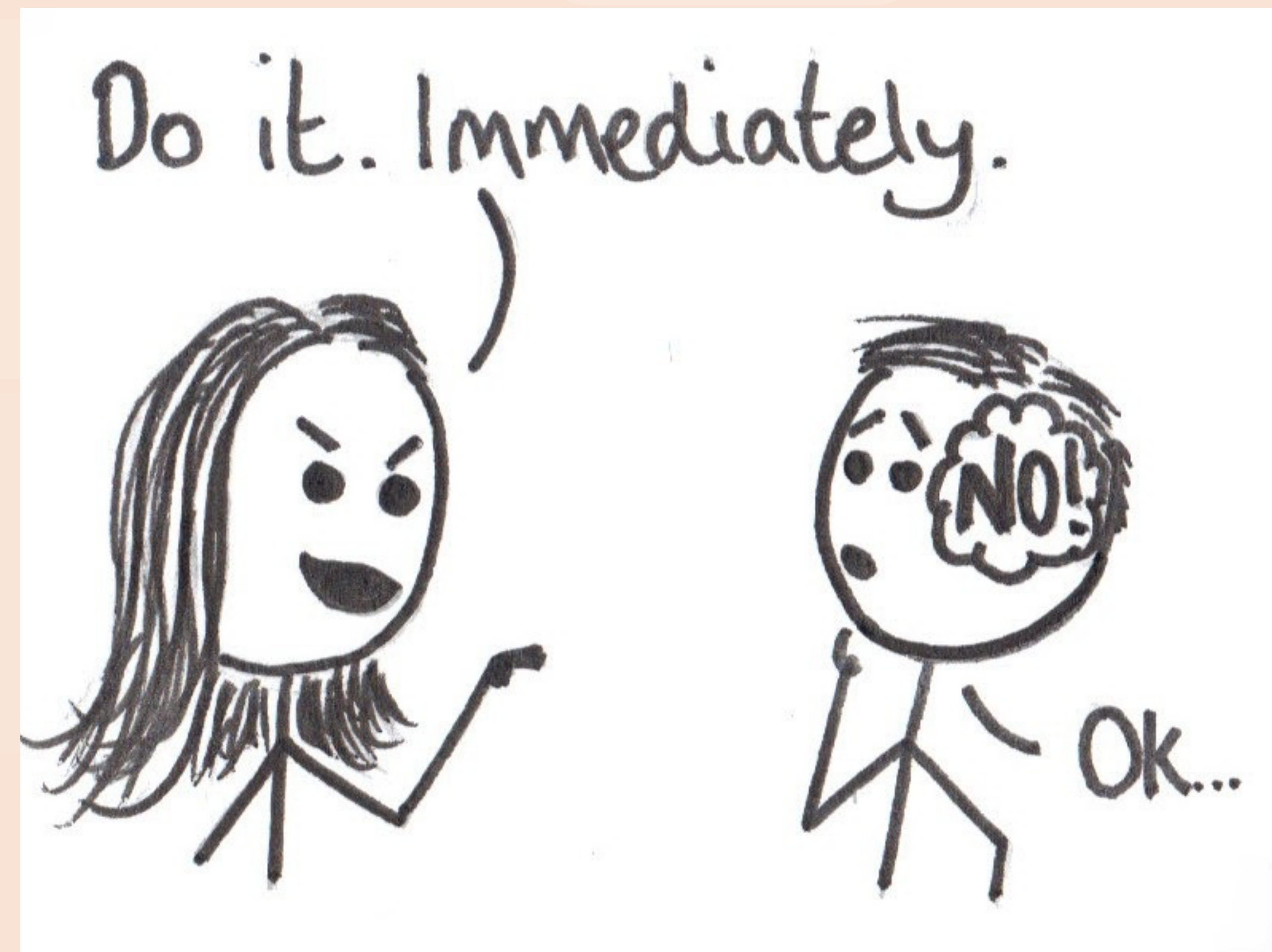
Application

Memorisation

STEP #1: PRAY FOR
INSIGHT (WISDOM)
ON HOW TO APPLY
THE PASSAGE

ASK GOD TO HELP
YOU APPLY THE
SCRIPTURE — WHAT
DOES HE WANT YOU
TO DO?

God wants us to obey his Word, and share his Word—will you do this?



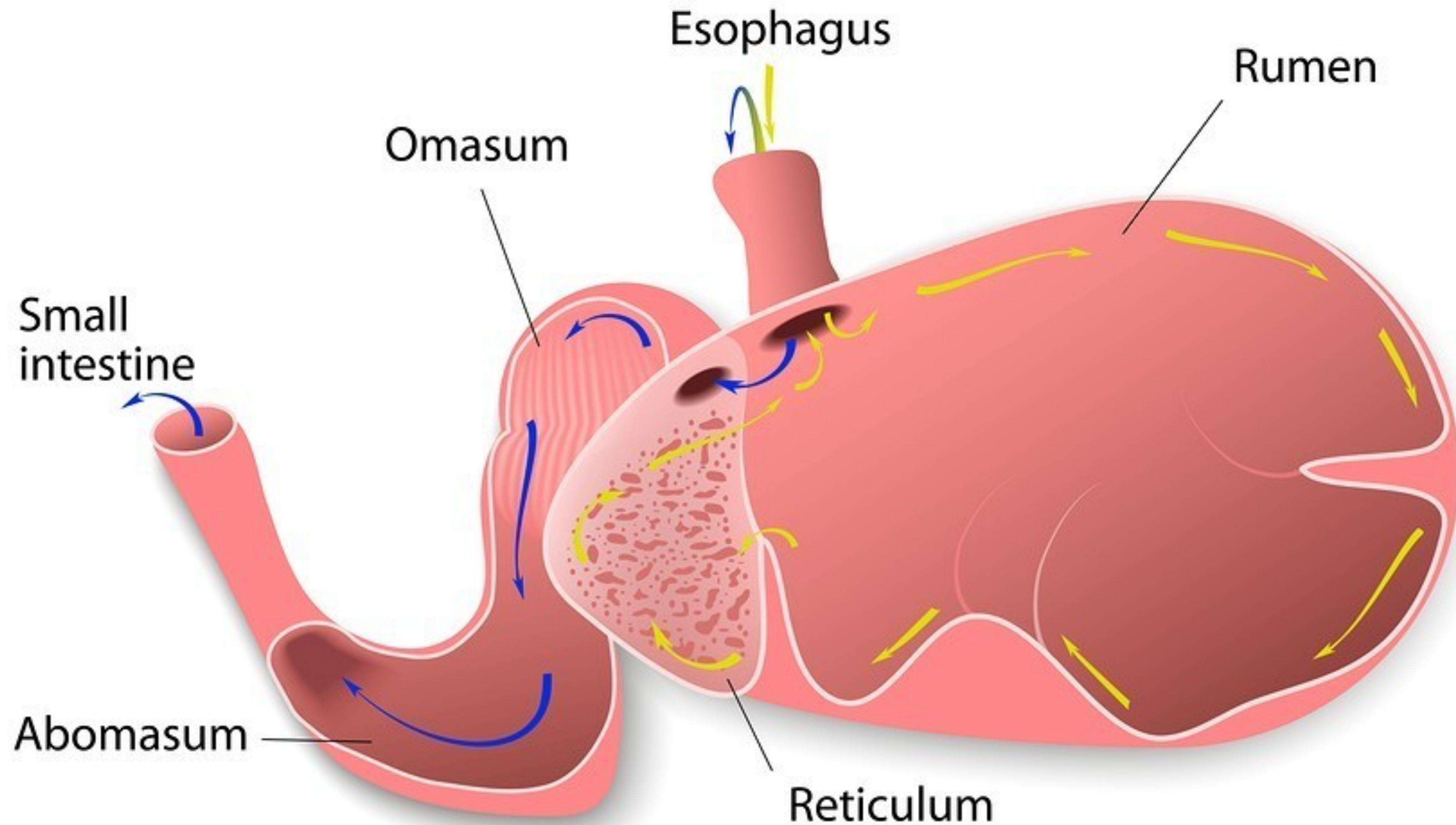
STEP #2:
MEDITATE ON THE
VERSES YOU HAVE
CHOSEN TO STUDY

Meditation is the key to finding out how to apply Scripture to your life—it is the way you digest the thoughts you have from the Word of God.

**Simply put in meditation you take a
thought and go over it time and time
again.**



RUMINANT STOMACH



Meditation is like a cow chewing its cud. It eats some grass and sends it to its first stomach; then it lies down, brings the grass up, chews on it, and swallows it again. This process of digestion is repeated three times.

In meditating on the Word of God we concentrate on it in different ways. For example,



1. Picture yourself in the scene - you might be part of a crowd, or one of the Twelve. Get into the heart of what is happening.



Imagine you are Paul in prison and writing to a church or disciple. Think about what is happening, how do you feel etc.





You are...

The Woman

One of the accusers

Jesus

A person passing by





2. Emphasise different words in a passage or verse to give a different feeling to the meaning of it.

e.g. Philippians 4:13

I can do all things through him who strengthens me,

might become...

I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

I **can** do all things through him who strengthens me.

I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

I **can** do all things through him who strengthens me.

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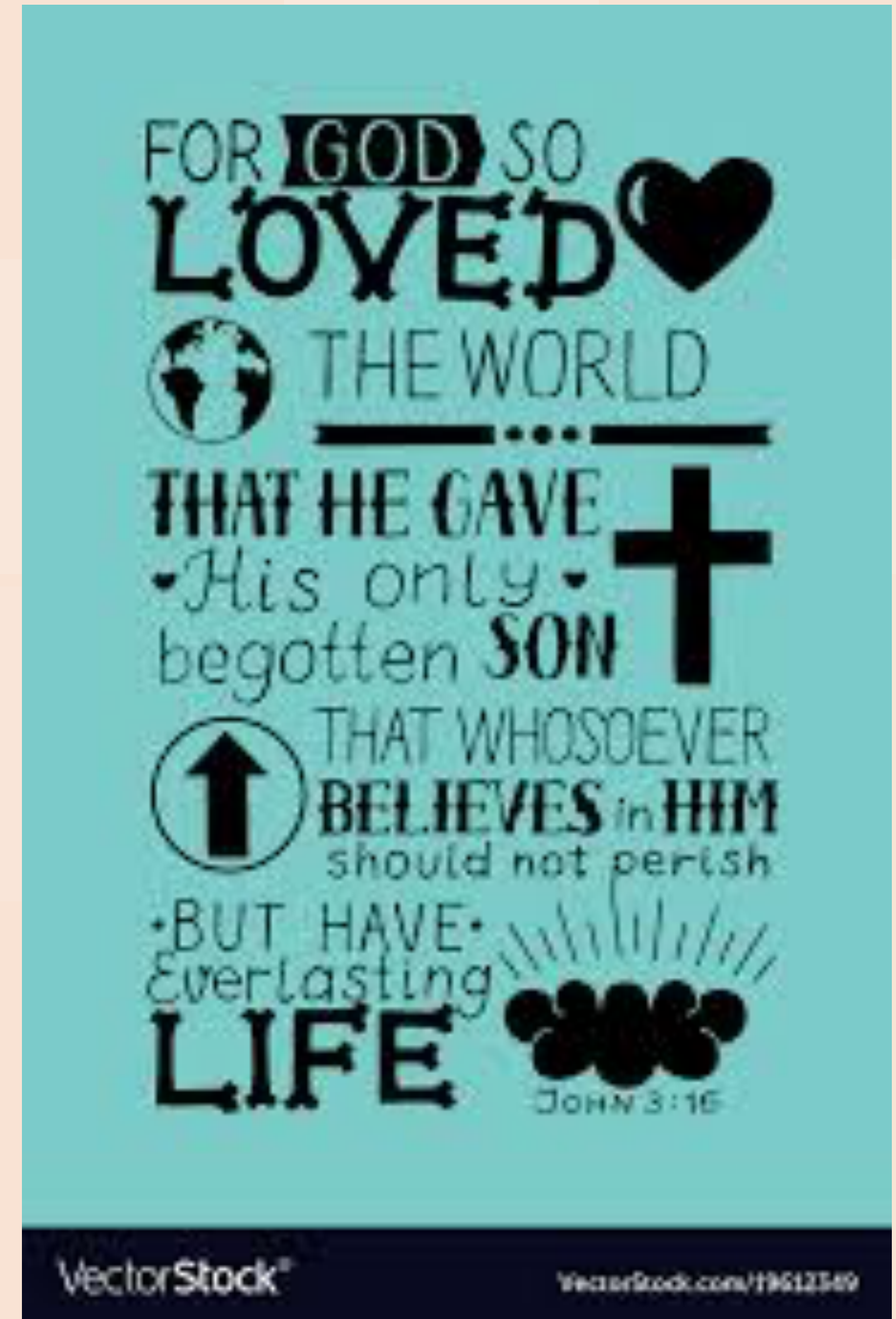
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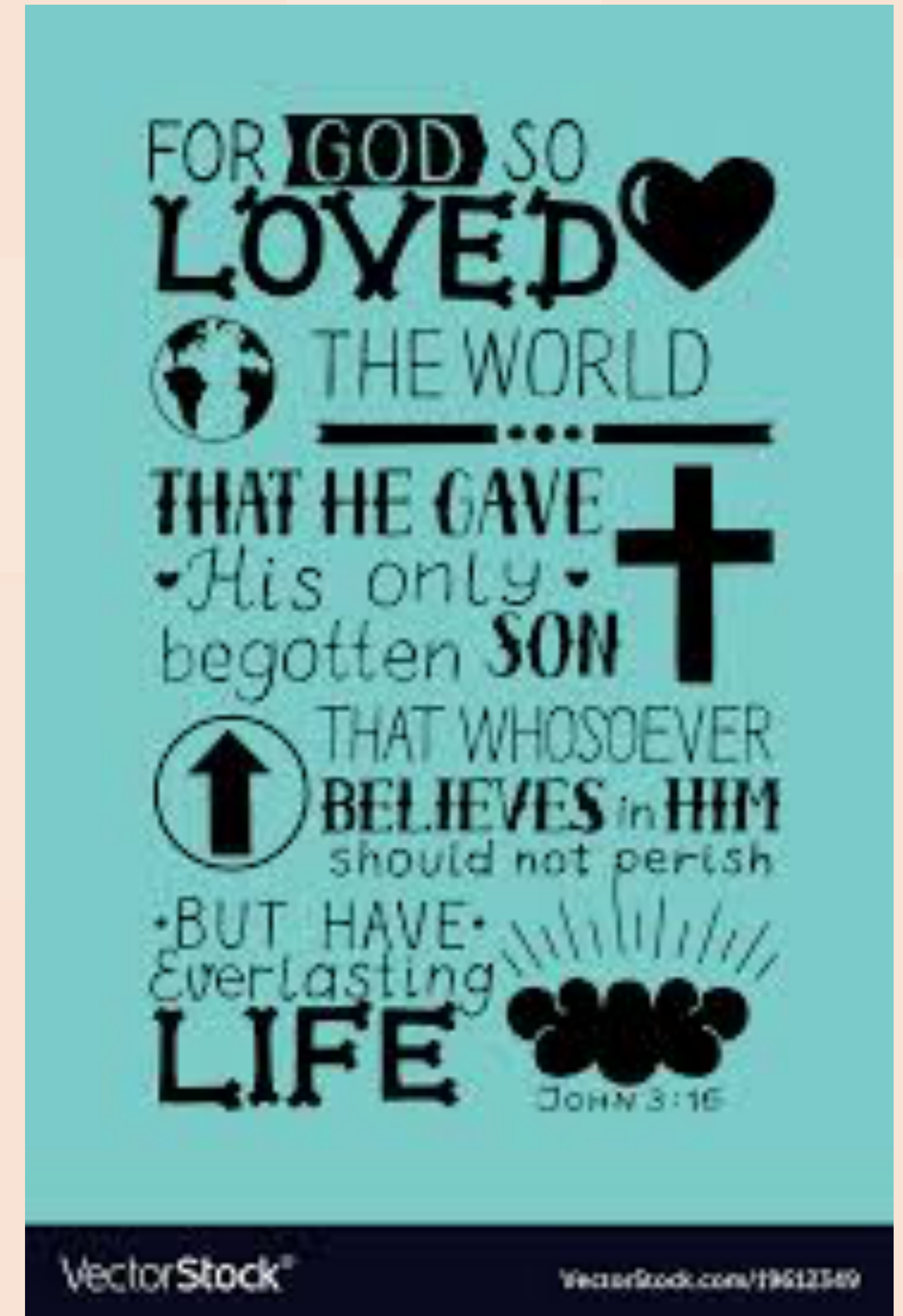
each time you emphasise something different and so
get a different point of application.

3. Make the passage personal to you and your situation.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.



For God so loved xxx, that he gave his only Son, that if xxx believes in him xxx should not perish but have eternal life.



4. Look at the verse: Use the **SPACEPETS** acrostic

This acrostic helps you to meditate on a verse: Ask the question,

Is there a...

S.in to confess?

P.romise to claim?

A.ttitude to change?

C.ommand to obey?

E.xample to follow?

P.rayer to pray?

E.rror to avoid?

T.ruth to believe?

S.omething to praise God for?

C.ommand to obey?

E.xample to follow?

P.rayer to pray?

E.rror to avoid?

T.ruth to believe?

S.omething to praise C

SPACEPETS:

Application - Is there a

SIN to confess?

PROMISE to claim?

ATTITUDE to change?

COMMAND to obey?

EXAMPLE to follow?

PRAYER to pray?

ERROR to avoid?

TRUTH to believe?

SOMETHING for which to
praise God?

SPACEPETS- A TOOL FOR DIGGING INTO THE BIBLE

- S** SIN TO CONFESS? DO I NEED TO MAKE ANY RESTITUTION?
- P** PROMISE TO CLAIM? IS IT A UNIVERSAL PROMISE? HAVE I MET THE CONDITION(S)?
- A** ATTITUDE TO CHANGE? AM I WILLING TO WORK ON A NEGATIVE ATTITUDE AND BEGIN BUILDING TOWARD A POSITIVE ONE?
- C** COMMAND TO OBEY? AM I WILLING TO DO IT NO MATTER HOW I FEEL?
- E** EXAMPLE TO FOLLOW? IS IT A POSITIVE EXAMPLE FOR ME TO COPY OR A NEGATIVE ONE TO AVOID?
- P** PRAYER TO PRAY? IS THERE ANYTHING I NEED TO PRAY BACK TO GOD?
- E** ERROR TO AVOID? IS THERE ANY PROBLEM THAT I SHOULD BE ALERT TO, OR BEWARE OF?
- T** TRUTH TO BELIEVE? WHAT NEW THINGS CAN I LEARN ABOUT GOD THE FATHER, JESUS CHRIST, THE HOLY SPIRIT, OR THE OTHER BIBLICAL TEACHINGS?
- S** SOMETHING TO PRAISE GOD FOR? IS THERE SOMETHING HERE I CAN BE THANKFUL FOR?



5. Pray the verse back to God

Make the passage you are reading your prayer and say it back to God. Psalm 23 becomes...

*Thank you lord for being my Shepherd, and that i
lack nothing,*

*Thank you for making me lie down in green
pastures,*

For leading me beside the quiet waters,

For restoring my soul,

*Thank you for guiding me in paths of
righteousness for your name's sake.*

STEP #3: WRITE
OUT AN
APPLICATION

This is based upon what you have discovered in your meditation. It is your own and needs to be written down (or else you will forget it!).



It is important for “spiritual truths” you have discovered to be written down—it shows you have really thought it through and would be able to explain it to someone else.



Your application should be:

1. Personal

It will use the first person singular pronouns, I, me, mine.

“I need to...”



2. Practical

It will be something you can do. It should be specific.

“I need to lose some weight.”



3. Possible

You should be able to do it—if you can't you end up being discouraged.

"I need to lose 5 kg."

**ACTIONS ALWAYS
PROVE WHY
WORDS MEAN
NOTHING.**

4. Provable

Can you check that you have done it? Is there a time limit to doing it?

I need to lose 5 kg by August 26th."

ACTIONS ALWAYS

PROVE WHY

WORDS MEAN

NOTHING.

TRY TO GET A FRIEND TO
HELP ASK YOU ABOUT
THIS APPLICATION, IT
WILL HELP YOU TO
ACTUALLY DO IT.

Not all possible applications are for you to use now. For example God is the god of all comfort (2 Cor 1:3, 4).

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

But you might not need comfort at this moment. Still you should write down the application, it might help you in the future, or you might use it to help someone else at the present time

STEP #4:
MEMORISE A KEY
VERSE FROM
YOUR STUDY

Memorising a verse helps you to
continue meditating on a passage and
to work on applying to to your life.

For example:

God might have spoken to you about being patient, and you have written an application point about this. In grace and love God then continues to bring you into situations where you are required to be patient in a way that usually you would simply not be. You might experience people who annoy you, situations that are chaotic etc.

“You must realize that when God wants to build a positive quality in your life, he must allow you to encounter situations where you can choose to do the right thing instead of following your natural inclinations.”

THE STUDY
SHEETS
DRAW FOR YOURSELF

DEVOTIONAL STUDY FORM

DATE: July 10

PASSAGE: Judges 6:1 – 18

1. PRAYER (check when done)

2. MEDITATION This passage is on the call of Gideon.

Lessons (Truths to Believe)

- When God wants to accomplish something, he looks for people to use.
- God often uses the most unexpected people.
- God can show his strength best through our weaknesses.
- God's power in us is the answer to our inadequacies.

Sin to Confess/Attitude to Change

Lord, forgive me for not being willing to be used by you. I've felt that you couldn't use me because of my weaknesses. I've used my inadequacy as an excuse for laziness. Help me remember that trusting in myself will cause failure, but relying on your strength in me will bring victory. Use my weaknesses to bring glory to yourself.

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DEVOTIONAL STUDY FORM

DATE: June 30

PASSAGE: Luke 12:22–26

1. PRAYER (check when done)

2. MEDITATION This is my personalized paraphrase.

I shouldn't worry so much. God will take care of all my needs. Since God gave me my life, surely I can trust him to sustain it. I can learn from the example of birds: they don't worry about the future. God takes care of them on *a daily* basis. And if God takes care of the birds, of course he will take care of me! Besides, worrying never does me any good. It never really changes the situation. So what's the use of worrying? None!

Command to Obey: *Don't worry!* (v. 22)

Promise to Claim: *God will take care of me!* (v. 24)

3. APPLICATION

I need to apply this lesson in the area of our family finances.

For this next month (I'll take it one month at a time) every time the devil tempts me to worry about our bills, I'll resist that thought by quoting Luke 12:24 *aloud*.

4. MEMORIZATION

"Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds!"
(Luke 12:24)

DEVOTIONAL STUDY FORM

Date: _____ Scripture Passage: _____

STEP ONE: **PRAYER FOR INSIGHT**

(Check When Done)

STEP TWO: **MEDITATION**

Six ways to meditate on a verse:

- 1. PICTURE IT!** Visualize the scene in your mind.
- 2. PRONOUNCE IT!** Say the verse aloud, each time emphasizing a different word.
- 3. PARAPHRASE IT!** Rewrite the verse in your own words.
- 4. PERSONALIZE IT!** Replace the pronouns or people in the verse with your own name.
- 5. PRAY IT!** Turn the verse into a prayer and say it back to God.
- 6. PROBE IT!** Ask the following nine questions:

STEP THREE: APPLICATION

Is there a...

S.IN TO CONFESS?

P.ROMISE TO KEEP?

A.TTITUDE TO CHANGE?

C.OMMAND TO KEEP?

E.XAMPLE TO FOLLOW?

P.RAYER TO PRAY?

E.RROR TO AVOID?

T.RUTH TO BELIEVE?

S.OMETHING TO THANK
GOD FOR?

STEP FOUR: MEMORIZATION *(What verse will I memorize?)*

Verse:

Devotional Study Form

Date: _____

Passage: _____

Meditation

Application

Memorisation

Devotional Study Form

Date: _____

Passage:

Meditation

Application

Memorisation

SUMMARY

Application always asks the question,
**“Does this application help me to
become more like the Lord Jesus
Christ?”**

Whatever the holy Spirit or Word of God reveal to us we are called to apply it into our lives. This will keep us spiritually healthy and growing.

ASSIGNMENT

Study **two** of the following texts using the devotional method:

Psalms 15

Psalms 34

Romans 12

1 Thessalonians 5:12-22

1 John 4

THE END